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Application No.: 09/067,638

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application.

Amend the claim by cancelling Claim 87 as follows:

**Claim Listing:**

1-82. (canceled).

83. (Previously presently) A system of associated components for preparing a set of oligonucleotides that modulates expression of a selected nucleic acid comprising:  
a computer system that

- i) generates a list of oligonucleotide sequences according to a desired oligonucleotide length, thereby generating a series of oligonucleotide sequences;
- ii) applies a virtual oligonucleotide chemistry to the oligonucleotide sequences generated in step i) to yield a set of virtual oligonucleotides;
- iii) generates a subset of said set of virtual oligonucleotides, said subset being the result of a decision to target a functional region of said selected nucleic acid; and
- iv) generates synthesis instructions in computer manipulable form for said oligonucleotide sequences in said subset of said set of virtual oligonucleotides; an automated synthesizer that receives said synthesis instructions from said computer system and synthesizes only said oligonucleotide sequences in said subset of said set of virtual oligonucleotides, wherein the product of said synthesis is a set of synthesized oligonucleotides; and  
an apparatus that accepts said set of synthesized oligonucleotides and performs at least one procedure for each of said synthesized oligonucleotides wherein said procedure identifies particular members of said set that modulate expression of said selected nucleic acid.